



National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
Connecticut Chapter  
659 Tower Avenue, First Floor  
Hartford, CT 06112-1269  
Tel +1.860.913.2550  
Fax +1.860.761.2466  
[www.ctfightsMS.org](http://www.ctfightsMS.org)

Appropriations Committee Public Hearing  
February 14, 2014

Testimony in Support of the CT Home Care Program for Adults with Disabilities

Senator Bye, Representative Abercrombie and Members of the Appropriations Sub-Committee on Human Services,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. My name is Susan Raimondo and I am the Senior Director of Advocacy and Programs for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, CT Chapter.

We want to thank Governor Malloy, the Legislature and the Connecticut Department of Social Services for their long standing support of the Connecticut Home Care Program for Adults with Disabilities (CHCPAD).

We are asking that the Appropriations Committee include 50 additional slots for the Connecticut Home Care Program for Adults with Disabilities in the FY 15 budget.

The program, started in 2007, is unique because it is the only comprehensive home care program available to adults between the ages of 19 and 64 who have degenerative neurological conditions and are ineligible for other programs. Services include: care management, adult daycare, home health care, homemakers and home delivered meals.

CHCPAD is modeled after the state-funded Category 2 of the CT Home Care Program for Elders. The program participants must require assistance with 3 critical needs and need case management services. These are people who are at high risk of nursing home placement.

CHCPAD serves 50 individuals from throughout the state including those with multiple sclerosis, ALS, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and Huntington's diseases. There are over 100 people on the waiting list. The approximate wait time from application to enrollment is more than 3 years.

The CT Department of Social Services and Governor Malloy are supporting the appropriation of adding 50 additional slots to the program. The Department has been a champion of the program and we express our appreciation to Program Manager, Kathy Bruni, DSS leadership and the entire department.

The average yearly cost of home care for individuals on the program is \$16,000 compared to a cost of \$72,000 per year if the individual were to be on Medicaid and living in a nursing home. SAVINGS: \$56,000 per person per year for a total of over \$2.8 million annually.

#### Benefits to Families and the Community

- Keeps younger adults in their homes and out of nursing homes.  
Approximately 13% of Connecticut nursing home residents are younger than age 65.
- Creates jobs in the health and home care service fields.
- Increases income tax revenue through new jobs.
- Allows family caregivers to maintain their employment, pay taxes and stay afloat financially.
- Keeps families together.

We are urging the Appropriations Committee to include 50 additional slots for the Connecticut Home Care Program for Adults with Disabilities in the FY 15 budget.

Thank you.